



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No: 8
No.: 8

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: JANUARY 23, 1979

CANADA PRESENTS COSMOS 954 CLAIM TO USSR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, today presented to the Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Canada's claim for compensation for damage caused by the intrusion into Canadian air space and break up over Canadian territory of the Soviet Cosmos 954 satellite on January 24, 1978. As the Cosmos satellite was nuclear powered, extensive search and recovery operations were undertaken to locate and remove hazardous radioactive debris on Canadian territory. These operations, during the period January 24, 1978 to October 15, 1978, were directed by the Department of National Defence, in the first phase, and subsequently, in the second phase, by the Atomic Energy Control Board. Canada's claim is in the amount of \$6,041,174.70, representing those costs in respect of the operations which would not have been incurred had the satellite not entered Canadian territory.

With the submission of Canada's claim and after the provision of all supporting documentation to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has been completed, the Department of External Affairs expects to enter into diplomatic negotiations leading to the settlement of the claim.

Information on the claim, including the texts of supporting documentation submitted today to the Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, will be made available on January 31, 1979.



OTTAWA, K1A 0G2

NO. FLA-268

Excellency,

I have the honour to present the claim of Canada against the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in respect of damage to Canada, its citizens and residents, caused by the Soviet Cosmos 954 nuclear-powered Satellite on and after January 24, 1978.

The claim of Canada for compensation for damage caused by the Soviet Cosmos 954 Satellite is based on the relevant international agreements and in particular the 1972 Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects, to which both Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are parties, and on general principles of international law. The claim of Canada for compensation, in the amount of \$6,041,174.70 (Canadian), is presented without prejudice to the right of Canada to make additional claims for compensation in this matter in respect of damage not yet identified or determined or, given the

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His Excellency Alexander N. Yakovlev,
Ambassador of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics,
OTTAWA.

nature of nuclear contamination, damage that has not yet occurred.

The following documentation is submitted in support of this claim:

- A. A Statement of Claim;
- B. The texts of diplomatic communications, between the Department of External Affairs and the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in respect of the Soviet Cosmos 954 Satellite; and
- C. A Schedule of Costs incurred by Canada during Phase I of operations (January 24 - April 20, 1978) undertaken as a consequence of the events giving rise to Canada's claim.

The following additional documentation will be submitted in due course:

- D. A Schedule of Costs incurred by Canada during Phase II of operations (April 21 - October 15, 1978) undertaken as a consequence of the events giving rise to Canada's claim; and
- E. A Schedule of Recovered Debris, being a description of Soviet Cosmos 954 Satellite debris, the location of recovery, the radiation level and the disposition.

The claim of Canada for compensation for damage caused by the Soviet Cosmos 954 Satellite is preferred against the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in accordance

with the international practice of States and the provisions of the 1972 Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects. The presentation of this claim is without prejudice to the right of Canada to invoke the provisions of the Convention concerning the establishment of a Claims Commission and is further without prejudice to the form and substance of pleadings, oral arguments and documents that may be submitted by Canada to such a Commission.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Secretary of State
for External Affairs